

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are pending.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

The Official Action rejects the pending claims under §102(e) as being anticipated by TSUCHIYA et al. US 2004/0023483.

As acknowledged by the Official Action, this reference has the same priority date as the present application; however, previously no verified translation of the priority document had been filed in order to perfect applicants' claim to this date.

Accordingly, please make of record the verified English-language translation of the application's priority document Japanese Application No. 2002-225734 filed August 2, 2002. Making of record this English translation perfects applicants' claim to that priority date.

Accordingly, TSUCHIYA et al. US 2004/0023483 is not prior art to the present application and the rejection should be withdrawn.

There being no other pending rejections, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified English-language translation of Japanese Application
No. 2002-225734